THE WAR DAY BY DAY

Fifty Years Ago.

November 29, 1863—Confederates Under Gen. James Longstreet, Who Were Besieging Knoxville, East Tennessee, Attacked Fort Sanders and Were Repulsed with Heavy Loss—One of the Most Daring Charges in the War.

(Written expressly for The Herald.)

Fifty years ago today the Confederates under Gen. James Longstreet, who were besieging Knoxville, East Tennessee, attacked Fort Sanders, one of the city's defenses, and were repulsed with heavy loss. Their failure was due rather to faulty management than to any lack of bravery on the part of the men. On both sides the fighting was marked by deeds of individual heroism in a bloody hand-to-hand struggle in the ditch and on the parapets of the Federals' earthworks.

Fort Sanders was named for Gen. William P. Sanders, a young and promising officer, who two weeks before had given his life in a successful endeavor to check the Confederate advance against Knoxville until the defenses of the town were strengthened. With a small command of dismounted cavalry, he had fought Longstreet's superior number, who had come East from the army of Gen. Braxton Bragg, in front of Chattanooga, to capture or drive the Federals from East Tennessee.

The Union troops in that quarter were commanded by Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, who, after his failure to carry the heights of Fredericksburg, in 1863, when in command of the Army of the Potomac, had been sent West to direct operations in the department of the Ohio. He had marched from Kentucky into East Tennessee with little opposition, and had captured Knoxville, its metropolis.

The Confederates were not content to give up East Tennessee without a struggle. Early in November Gen. James Longstreet had been sent from Chattanooga to operate against Gen. Burnside. Longstreet had under his command about 15,000 effectives. Gen. Burnside had about 20,000 men in East Tennessee, but they were so scattered that when the siege of Knoxville began there were only 12,000, exclusive of a few newly enlisted Tennesseans, in the town.

Gen. Longstreet's force had crossed the Tennessee River at Huffs Ferry, near Loudon, twenty-five miles downstream from Knoxville, on November 14, and immediately marched toward the town. The Federals contested the ground hotly, retiring within their lines in front of Knoxville on November 17.

Gen. Sanders was sent to hold the Confederates in check. While he was fighting with Gen. Longstreet's men, the soldiers and citizens of Knoxville were laboring day and night on the earthworks, which were designed by Capt. O. M. Poe, the Federal chief engineer.

Food on Rafts.

Fort Sanders was ---ently was the ---st vulnerable point in the Federal line. The approaches to it were neither so abrupt nor so exposed as were those in other parts of the field.

Gen. Longstreet's original plan was to besiege the town until the defenders should be forced to surrender through lack of food. There had been no preparation for a continued siege. The food supplies in Knoxville were extremely limited, and from the first the defenders were placed on minir--- rations.

Thanks to a certain Capt. Doughty and to the loyal people of East Tennessee, the town was never completely cut off from the outside world. Doughty, with a small band of men, was operating in the productive country along the French Broad River, which flows into the Holston, on the north bank of which is Knoxville. On foggy nights—and at this time of year nearly every night was foggy—Capt. Doughty would load provisions on rafts and float them down to Knoxville. A pontoon bridge crossed the river at the town, and checked the further progress of the crude supply boats.

Furthermore, the Federals never lost control of the high lands on the south bank of the Holston River, opposite Knoxville, and this gave them egress to a strip of rich country. Longstreet's force was not large enough to completely encircle the town.

Consequently, finding that his original plan of starving out the defenders was not working to his satisfaction, and urged by messages from Gen. Bragg to carry the town by storm and to return to Chattanooga before the Federals there should take the offensive, Longstreet ordered an attack.

Fort Sanders was the point selected for the assault, which was to be made at daylight on the morning of November 29.

That day dawned extremely foggy and the attack was postponed to the next day.

Storm Is Two Columns.

Fort Sanders was commanded by Lieut. Samuel N. Benjamin, of the Second United States Artillery. It mounted ten guns—four 24-pounder Parrots, four light 12-pounders and two 3-inch guns—of Benjamin's Roemar's (Battery L, Second New York Light Artillery) and Buckley's (Battery D, First Rhode Island Light Artillery) batteries. It was garrisoned by the Seventy-ninth New York "Highlanders," about 15 strong, and in case of attack four companies of the Seventeenth Michigan were to enter the fort and post themselves at the point assaulted.

The Confederate troops selected to attack this work were those of Gen. Lafayette McLaw's division. They were to move in two storming columns, at the right Humphrey's and Bryan's brigades, Humphrey in the lead, and at the left Wofford's Brigade.

Humphrey's Brigade consisted of the Thirteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-first Mississippi Regiments; Wofford's of the Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fourth Regiments, Cobb's and Phillips' Legions and the Third Battalion of Sharpshooters, all of Georgia; Bryan's of the Tenth, Fiftieth, Fifty-first and Fifty-third Georgia regiments. McLaw's other brigade, Kershaw's, was to remain in reserve.

In addition, Anderson's Brigade of Gen. Micah Jenkin's division (Hood's) was to deliver a simultaneous attack on the earthworks north of Fort Sanders, and, if possible, to force its way to the rear of the fort. Anderson's Brigade consisted of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, and Fifty-ninth Georgia regiments. Other troops were held in readiness to follow up the expected success of the assaulting columns.

Time of the eighteen regiments selected to make the attack, fourteen were of Georgia troops.

The Federals in the fort at height of the fight numbered about 450. The Confederate attacking force was about 4,000.

Into Entanglements.

At moonrise, shortly after 10 o'clock on the night of November 28, four regiments of the attacking column moved rapidly forward toward the fort, captured or drove in the Federal pickets and established themselves within 100 yards of the work. They threw up rifle pits on the crest of a ridge at that point, which afforded shelter to the troops moving up for the attack.

Shortly after 6 o'clock the following morning, fifty years ago today, the Confederate artillery opened a furious fire upon Fort Sanders. It did little damage, only one man of the garrison being wounded. Lieut. Benjamin hurried from point to point in the fort to see that his men were in readiness to repel assault. Ammunition was distributed and the guns triple shotted with canister.

As the din of cannonading subsided the solid columns of Confederates came over the rise and dashed across the intervening ground. Their rifles were silent. Longstreet had ordered a bayonet charge, and had cautioned against loud outcry. Yet the old war yell resounded loud. The men in gray meant business.

On they came. The Federal guns swept the ground with showers of death-dealing missiles, but the advance of the enemy was so rapid that only one charge could be fired before they came too close for the guns to bear.

An abattis of felled trees, their tops to the foe, checked the onrush, but only momentarily. Bursting through this obstruction the Confederates next ran full against a wire entanglement. From stump to stump this confusing network stretched in many rows.

The abattis had broken the solid formation of the attacking force. Now the wires completed the work. In the wild onrush and scramble to reach the goal, which now was within a few yards and from which a deadly fire was pouring, commands became separated, ranks shattered. The two attacking columns, unable to see one another because of a slight fog, came up at nearly the same point in front of the fort. Their ranks became intermingled—yet the impetuosity of the charge broke down the wires and the men dashed on toward the earthen walls of the fort.

Checked by a Ditch.

When the leaders neared the foot of the parapet they paused for an instant at the edge of a dry ditch, which ran along its front. This proved an unexpected obstacle. Its existence had been known, but it was found to be deeper and wider than the reports of observers had indicated. The halt was for an instant only. Pressure of numbers in the rear and the heavy fire of the defenders of the fort forced those in front to immediate action. Jumping into the trench they clambered up the parapets and now, with wild yells, endeavored to gain a foothold within the works.

All was confusion among the Confederates. Men fell headlong into the ditch, and their comrades, unheeding, made their way over them. Those in the rear struggled to attain position at the front. Here and there battle flags were carried forward with a cheer and rushed to the struggling mass of humanity on the parapet and embrasures.

There the wildest scenes were enacted. Groups of Confederates forced their way up the steep walls of the fort, slipped in the morning frost, only to be shot down or dashed from place back into the struggling mass of men in the trench below.

Cannon, loaded to the muzzles with canister, raked the ditch and parapet with a destructive crossfire and literally blew the assailants to pieces. The defenders were ordered to fire only upon those who gained the walls and to waste neither time, energy, nor ammunition upon them in the rear.

Muskets, clubs, bayonets, swords, and even rocks, were used in the bloody combat. The screams of the wounded and the groans of the dying mingled in a roar with the shouts of those who endeavored to force their way into the Federal lines.

An added din, and a fresh attack upon another part of the fort, announced the arrival of Anderson's brigade. This, according to plan, should have directed its attack against the works north of the fort. But in the confusion Anderson's men had diverted to the south. They struck the Federal fort at the point which Wofford's brigade should have attackled.

Assailants Beaten Off.

The defendants were now hard pressed. Five companies of the Twenty-ninth Massachusetts and two companies of the Twentieth Michigan Volunteers were sent in to aid them. The newly arrived re-enforcements turned the tide of battle, and the Confederates were flung back from the parapets with heavy loss.

Sergt. Francis W. Judge, of Company D, Seventy-ninth New York, dashed out through an embrasure, and, grappling with the color-bearer of the Fifty-first Georgia, dragged him and his flag into the fort. Judge was awarded a medal of honor for this exploit.

Sert. Jeremiah Maloney and Private Joseph S. Manning, both of the Twenty-ninth Massachusetts, were similarly honored for capturing Confederate battle-flags. Sergt. Maloney secured the flag of the Seventeenth Mississippi.

The fighting on the walls of the fort lasted about twenty minutes. As it subsided one company of the Twenty-ninth Massachusetts and one of the Second Michigan were ordered to sally out on each side of the work and attack the Confederates in flank. Complying with instructions they delivered a simultaneous assault on the attacking force, and, rushing along the ditch, rounded up fully 200 prisoners.

Gen. Longstreet, learning of the failure of the attack, ordered his men to fall back to shelter. Hundreds of Confederate wounded and dying were left in front of the fort, and their cries of anguish won for them the heartfelt sympathy of the Federals. Gen. Burnside proposed a truce in order that Longstreet might remove his dead and wounded within his lines. Longstreet accepted his offer, and, in a few hours the horrible traces of the morning's fight had been removed.

The losses on the Confederate side were 129 killed, 458 wounded, and 226 captured or missing, a total of 813. The Federals lost only 8 killed and 5 wounded. On the Confederate side Col. S. Z. Ruff, Eighteenth Georgia, commanding Wofford's brigade; Col. H. P. Thomas, Sixteenth Georgia, and Col. Kennon McElroy, Thirteenth Mississippi, were killed. Lieut. Col. John C. Fisher, Seventeenth Mississippi, lost an arm in the contest.

This was the final engagement of the Knoxville campaign. Before noon fifty years ago today a messenger arrived in the Confederate camps with news of Gen. Bragg's defeat at Missionary Ridge, and his retreat to Dalton, Ga. The Federals at Chattanooga now were free to move to the relief of Knoxville, and Gen. Longstreet prepared to raise the siege.

Tomorrow—Meade's Mine Run campaign.

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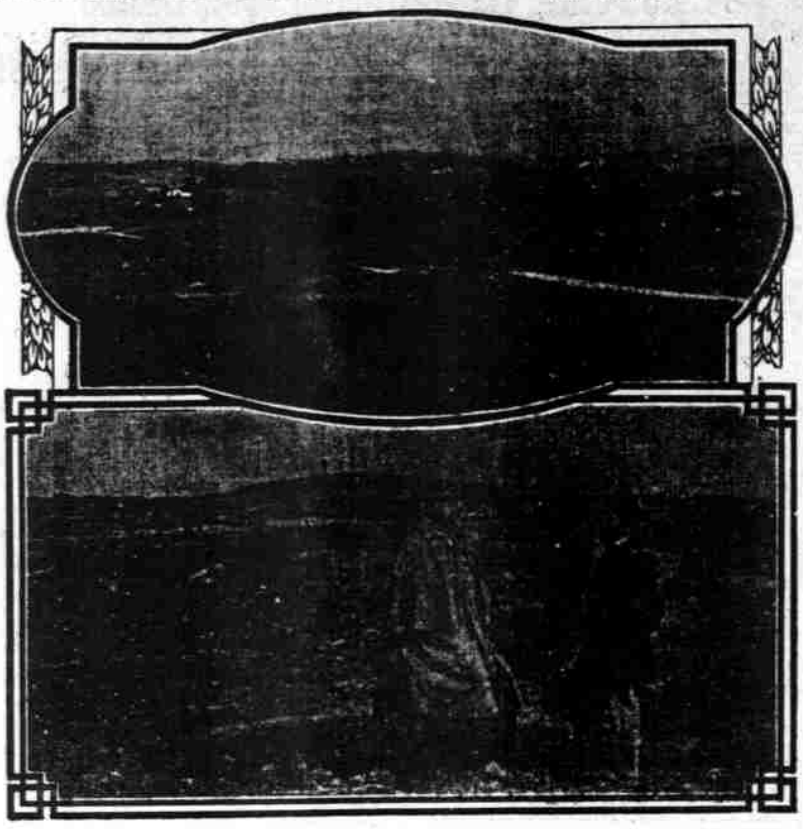

VIEWS OF THE GROUND ON WHICH THE BLOODY STRUGGLE FOR KNOXVILLE TOOK PLACE

The upper photograph, recently taken for this series, shows the open fields over which the Confederates advanced to attack Fort Sanders. The lower, war-time illustration, is of the ground immediately in front of the fort, and shows the earth parapets of the Federal work. The height of the parapets may be estimated by a comparison with that of the soldier who stands on them. In the foreground, seated on a stump, is Gen. O. M. Poe, the Federal chief engineer, who laid out the defenses.

NEWMAN TO GIVE ADDRESS.

Commissioner to Speak at Popular Government Conference.

Oliver P. Newman, president of the Board of Commissioners, will open the first national conference on popular government with an address of welcome to the delegates at Memorial Continental Hall 9 o'clock Saturday.

The announced purposes of the conference are the consideration of the "gateway amendment," which will make the process of amending the Federal Constitution more simple; discussion of the dangers threatening the movement for the initiative, referendum, and recall, of the preferential ballot, the need of the public school as a social center, and to accomplish the organization of a national popular government league.

Secretary of State Bryan will speak on "The People's Rule: How to Make It a Fact," at the morning session. Attorney Jackson H. Ralston and Miss Janet Richards are other Washingtonians who will make addresses.

WOMAN AND THE HOME

Edited by JULIA CHANDLER HAND.

BEAUTIFUL WORK OF ELIZABETH FRY

Set Aside Social Allurements Because of Her Humanity-loving Heart.

By FRANCES SHAFFER.

It was a century ago that four Quakers, on an errand of mercy to gloomy, repulsive Newgate prison, in London, passed within sight of the women's ward. There they saw 300 women prisoners and their forty or fifty little children huddled together, unkempt, in squalid attire and some of them looking more like beasts than women.

A day or so afterward, with the deplorable picture fresh in mind, one of them described the black prison house, the women, and all the revolting conditions, to the great-hearted Quakeress, Elizabeth Fry.

Accustomed as she was to scenes of wretchedness, she was appalled by the stories she heard, and determined to visit Newgate prison and to learn for herself the lot of the women prisoners.

When she applied for permission to enter the ward where the women were kept, the governor of the prison, remembering that they were recruited from the scum of the town and the country, advised her and the friend who accompanied her to leave their watches and purses outside the doors, for the women were no respecters of persons and might easily snatch them away. But the Quakeress, a woman of great wealth herself, had devoted her life to the lowly and the criminal, and she knew no fear.

When they reached the quarters where the women and children were gathered, she found the conditions all that had been described, and worse. The best and worst of them were all mixed together, without any attempt to separate the most depraved from the newest offenders. The boards of the floor were their only beds, raised a bit at the head as a makeshift for pillows, their clothing was a wretched combination of rags and filth, and they crowded up to the gratings tumultuously begging for money, which was speedily exchanged for drink, easily obtained in the prison.

When the placid-faced, soberly garbed Quakeress looked upon that motley gathering of women, idle all—for the authorities made no effort to give them employment—tempestuous, degraded almost to the last degree in their habits and speech, and with just one man and a boy in charge, she did not know what could be done to relieve their pitiable plight, but she knew that something must be forthcoming, and that right quickly.

When she returned home, all her household who knew how to sew were set at work making warm woolen garments for the women and the children that crowded around, and she enlisted the help of other households until the most urgent needs were supplied.

On her second visit to the prison she gathered the women about her and talked with them, and later unfolded to them a plan she had to help their children. Persuasively she pointed out to them how the long hours of idleness, the horrible language, and the worse scenes were leaving their unwholesome marks upon the children, and told them that if they were willing and would help just a bit she was ready to start a school within the walls of the prison.

Her silver voice and manifest interest quite won them over and they promised to co-operate in the scheme. The authorities, although distrustful of the women inmates, and very skeptical of the plan, nevertheless yielded to the gentle pleadings of the Quakeress reformer, and a cell was set apart for the school. Filled to overflowing with little children, girls, and young women, it was a success from the start, and surprised and delighted all, even the objectors. It was not alone that the children were instructed, kept out of mischief, and away from the degrading surroundings, but the mothers were humanized in the process and their slumbering ambitions were aroused.

Mrs. Fry and a few zealous women who carried on the ministrations among Newgate's unfortunate prisoners, soon learned that much of the dissipation and viciousness was due to enforced idleness. And again the Quakeress worker among the worst of women determined that something could and must be done.

Once more there was opposition from the prison officials, who laughed at the scheme, and counted it worse than visionary. Doubting, they still yielded, and Mrs. Fry and her committee of women went to work, pledged to "the improvement of the female prisoners in Newgate," and to provide for the clothing, instruction, and employment of women, meanwhile hoping and expecting to bring about cleaner habits, thoughts, and manners of living.

For a month they carried the scheme along, practically unaided, then they laid a petition before the city, begging that their work be taken under its wings, and the men who were sent to examine the results of their labors were so surprised at the transformation that they were ready to grant anything. The civic purse shared in the salary of the matron, and gladly co-operated in the work.

As time went along Mrs. Fry and her helpers brought about wonderful changes in the dreary old Newgate prison, and the stories of her labors there were carried throughout the kingdom, and on to the whole civilized world.

For the reform begun among the women spread to other jails and prison-hobbies in London and led to a complete revolution in the prison and criminal systems of Great Britain. As the fame of her work traveled abroad, she was asked to visit the prisons of other lands, and help bring about reforms. She traveled extensively in Europe, where the conditions of the women inmates and their children were her first concern, though her help reached out to all. The wholesale executions of men and women for all sorts of crimes, the convict ships, the extreme punishments, and the most inhuman of the prison regulations—all were mightily influenced by the untiring labors of the humanity-loving Quakeress, who set aside the allurements of wealth and social position and answered the call of the criminal and of those who had sunk farthest down.

MILADY'S MIRROR.

Headaches may be alliviated by rubbing the temples with a slice of lemon.

An excess of borax in the shampoo will soon ruin the hair, causing it to break and split.

Peroxide of hydrogen is a safe and sure cure for superfluous hair. Continue its use for five or six months.

When the gums are tender and bleeding the mouth should be rinsed with warm water to which listerine has been added.

If your feet ache after dancing, soak them before you get into bed in hot bay salt and water, dry them, and rub briskly, especially about the ankles, with a rough towel.

Sleep as many hours as you find necessary completely to recuperate your strength, and as nearly as possible take half of these hours before and half after midnight.

A Sachet Handkerchief Box.

Handkerchief boxes are lovely when they have a liberal amount of your favorite sachet padded into their silk linings. Unfortunately, however, the delightful odor loses strength, and one would probably have to rip many rows of shirring, &c., in the pretty linings in order to renew the supply. A very practical sachet box recently seen at a bazaar entirely overcame this difficulty. The shirred silk lining contained narrow but deep pockets about the edge, one on each of the four sides, into which the sachets of white muslin were slipped. They could readily be renewed at will, and as the little bags were of such ordinary material one would feel no regret in throwing them away, as sometimes occurs with their more elaborate satin and embroidered sisters. To insure even a more lasting perfume to the box, the one in question was made from one of those delightful sweet-grass baskets

TAILORED COSTUME.

An exceedingly chic tailored costume made of rust brown duvetyn. It is trimmed only with buttons of its own material. The skirt is draped and fastened at one side at the bottom of the front, with buttons. The cutaway jacket has revers of duvetyn or velvet. Four yards of 54-inch duvetyn at $5 a yard will make the suit.

Colored Rope Rugs.

In Paris one lives out of doors so much that there are always new creations for the gardens and porches and the many terraces in the country where one finds the table set for a meal.

Among these new things is a large circular rug made in a simple design of colored rope.

The natural hempen color is used for the border and the circular center, and between are huge sailor knots of red or purple or blue rope. The effect is most attractive, and you can imagine how well such a floor covering looks in an open-air dining-room or on a stone terrace where afternoon tea is served.

There is no reason why these rugs cannot be copied by women who like such things and know where to get them done. Rope is easily bought and easily dyed in the preferred colors, and there are places in any town where sailorlike work is done.

Remember the rug is open in its design. It resembles a coil of rope and loops such as one would see on the deck of a yacht. It may have been first used on some one's yacht and rapidly have become the fashion for country houses.

A German importation which has been transplanted into Paris is the huge umbrella made of striped awning and material edged with deep fringe, which is mounted on a heavy standard and attached to the middle of the table in the garden. It is also used over reading tables that are placed under arbors, for continental Europe does not care to sit indoors whenever it is possible to sit outdoors.

The ordinary umbrella is of red and white, or yellow and white striped awning cloth, but at Martine's one sees these umbrellas in brilliant Futurist colors, with heavy cotton fringe and a brass standard.

For Birthday Cakes.

If a birthday is soon coming in your household, buy one of the charming little candle rings to go around a birthday cake. These rings are made of wood, enameled white and painted with small pink and blue flowers. They are perforated with sockets for holding many small candles. They sit securely on the table outside the cake, and there is no danger of burned cloth or scorched cake when they are used.

Of course, they come in different sizes, and cost according to size. If only a few holes are needed the candles can be arranged symmetrically, skipping one or two sockets between each two candles, and the empty sockets can be covered with flower heads or bonbons.

To Wash Shawl.

To wash a woolen shawl, lay it out perfectly flat on a piece of cloth sufficiently large to cover it and baste with heavy thread several times around until held firmly in place. Cover with another piece of cheesecloth and baste this enough to hold in position. Wash in good suds of wool soap, squeezing out as much water as you can without wringing, hang on the line to dry; when properly dry remove covering and you will find your shawl in perfect condition, light and fluffy, and not stretched at all.

ANACOSTIA RAILWAY EXTENSION PLANNED

Electric Line May Run to Giesboro Over Tracks of B. & O.—Hoboes En Route South.

The question of extending the street railroad from Congress Heights to Giesboro Point is taking definite shape. A trolley may be placed over the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Anacostia and Giesboro. Two or three switching points would make it practically unobstructed.

Edward Blaine, sachem of Mineola Tribe, No. 14, Improved Order of Red Men, of Anacostia, conducted the meeting of that organization last night in the local Masonic Hall.

The police of the Eleventh police precinct in Anacostia have received complaint from Twining City that hoboes bound for the South are very frequent these days. A few arrests have been made. The number of tramps now going Southward is much smaller than it used to be in former years. Some of the older railroad men state that the yards were full of tramps a few years ago, about this time of each year, the cold Northern weather forcing them to a warmer climate.

"The Conversion of Emperor Constantine and Its Influence on Religion" was the topic discussed last night by Rev. William Oscar Roome, Jr., rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The lecture was one of a series which Rev. Mr. Roome is delivering on church history.

Ambulance Driver Asks Damages.

Areil W. Weaver, driver of an ambulance for the Board of Charities, yesterday filed suit against the Capital Traction Company for $5,000 damages, alleging that May 19, last, a car of the defendant company collided with the ambulance plaintiff was driving, throwing him to the ground and injuring him seriously.

Railway Fatalities Increase.

Figures yesterday published by the Interstate Commerce Commission for the three months ended June 30, show an increase of 149 persons killed and 3,282 injured in train accidents and collisions, as compared with the same period in 1912. The total number of collisions shown were 344.

Johnstown, Pa., has a religious revival conducted by "Billy" Sunday.